

2006 Master Plan for Emphasis within the Utah Upland Game Program

2/21/06

Mission Statement:

Improve statewide hunting opportunity by developing habitat, and by taking advantage of opportunities to significantly increase local upland game populations.

Bird Transplants

- Relocate wild birds where appropriate
- Obtain pen-reared, or wild birds to establish or supplement populations
- Prioritized transplant locations based on the following criteria.
 - Support youth programs
 - Historical populations
 - Provide more hunting opportunities
 - Establishing new populations
 - Suitability of habitat to sustain population and survival

Water Development

Establish an aggressive program developing water sources that will benefit upland game populations

- Guzzlers
 - Reserve a minimum of \$25,000 per year from upland habitat restricted funds for development of new Upland Game guzzlers
 - Criteria for selecting guzzler location
 - Publicly accessible
 - Consistent with current and future research
 - Builds guzzler clusters or expands adjacent water resources
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- Protect and maintain Natural Water sources
 - Springs
 - Seeps
- Develop partnerships with other water agencies
- Water rich Vegetation projects (Onions)

Protect, Develop and Improve Upland Habitat

- Promote aspen regeneration, watershed restoration, and sage-steppe restoration for the primary benefit of upland game.
- Ensure upland game habitat funds that are expended on WMAs provide specific benefit to upland game.
- Conservation easements on leks and brood rearing habitat
- Preference will be given to projects supported by research and monitoring
 - Water development
 - Food plots
 - Nesting cover, thermal cover, winter feeding
- Emphasis on public land, and on private land where public access is assured.
- Spend upland game habitat funds on projects where upland game is the primary beneficiary.
- Encourage “Roadside” habitat programs in regions and counties.

Landowner Relations and Habitat Education

- Promote and educate
 - Good farming and ranching practices that support upland game populations.
 - Aggressively promote and support federal and state programs that benefit upland game and upland game hunting such as: walk-in access, farm bill conservation programs, landowner incentive program and conservation easements.
 - Aggressively promote and support cooperative conservation projects/programs with nonprofit conservation organizations.
- Support the management of noxious weeds

Disease Management

- Support programs to control diseases that might threaten upland game.

Other Priorities

- Educate hunters on underutilized upland game resources such as chukars, Hungarian partridges and ptarmigan.
- Review, support and improve the processes that fund, allocate and spend upland game funds in the state.
- Support and encourage improved DWR funding and staffing
- Encourage well supervised volunteer programs that support upland game.
- Encourage DWR regions to use local upland game conservation organizations in management activities benefiting upland game.